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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

By: Shogo MURAMATSU et al

Serial Number: 09/423,981

Group Art Unit: 1775

Filed: February 18, 2000

Examiner: J. Savage

For: ALUMINUM-ALLOY BASED SLIDING MATERIAL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: June 24, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A flame-sprayed aluminum-alloy, containing from 12 to 60% by weight of Si, the balance being essentially Al, the aluminum-alloy flame-sprayed by means of high velocity oxy-fuel flame-spraying method (HVOF) onto a substrate roughened by shot blasting, and includes granular Si particles dispersed in the matrix of the aluminum alloy, the granular Si particles having a short-diameter/long diameter ratio of 1/3 or more and some of the granular Si particles having a particle size greater than 10 μ m, and further said flame-sprayed aluminum alloy has adhesive strength of film higher than that of a